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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern.

I have been following the litigation involving Microsoft since the inception of the legal action.
The Government and nine states have come to an agreement to resolve the case.

It is not difficult to see why several states object to the settlement. These states are acting on behalf of Microsoft competitors. It is ridiculous to assume that a Company would be forced to turn over to its competitors source material that could, in effect, emasculate the company. Would someone suggest that this happen to Coca Cola. If they gave out the recipe for its product they would have to go out of business.

It would not be appropriate to order a company that has spent millions of dollars to improve the entire computer industry to turn over to its competitors the information.

It is interesting to note that each time a legal action is taken against Microsoft the effect is felt on the entire stock market. The litigation has hurt many retired persons who have pensions that are invested in Microsoft stock to some degree.

Despite the fact that the Court found that Microsoft had been guilty of something, is the consumer complaining ? I have been using Microsoft programs for many years and I do not want any money. I feel that I have the advantage of a superior company providing me with superior products.

I am old enough to remember when the cry was to break up the telephone company. I ask, has your telephone service gotten any better ? Has your telephone service gotten any cheaper.

The final thought that I have is that I read that Senator Lahey recently made the statement that he wanted to review the Microsoft settlement with the Judge. It seems to me that here is something called the separation of branches of the government. What right does a Senator have to interfere with a Court ? It would seem that the good Senator has forgotten the branch of government he participates in. But again, who knows what goes on in Washington.